

CASTLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
CASTLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1905.

Births and Birth-Rate.

During the year 732 births were registered, viz.:—358 Boys and 374 Girls. This gives an annual birth rate of 38.99 per thousand of the estimated population to the middle of the year. Of the 732 births 24 were illegitimate.

The number of births registered in the year 1904 was 681, which gave an annual birth rate of 36.9 per thousand. From this it will be seen that 51 more births have been registered during the present year. In the year 1903 there were 747 births registered or 41.23 per thousand. In the year 1902 there were 854 births registered or 47.8 per thousand. The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1905 was 27.2 per thousand, the lowest ever recorded.

Deaths and Death-Rate.

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 318, viz.:—168 males and 150 females. Five deaths of residents occurred out of the district, viz.:—four at the West Riding Lunatic Asylums and one at the Leeds General Infirmary, making the number 323, viz.:—172 males and 151 females. The death rate for the year amounts to 17.2 per thousand of the estimated population, against 18.3 per thousand in 1904. There were no uncertified deaths registered during the year. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales for this year was 15.2 per thousand which is the lowest ever recorded.

Classification of Deaths.

Classification of deaths according to the ages of deceased persons :—					
Under one year	...	...	...	...	126
1 year and under 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	47
5 „ „ 15 „ „ „	...	...	...	...	13
15 „ „ 25 „ „ „	...	...	...	...	14
25 „ „ 65 „ „ „	...	...	...	...	73
65 years of age and upwards	...	...	...	...	45
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	318

Infantile Mortality.

From the above table it will be seen that out of the total of 318 deaths, 126 occurred in infants under one year of age, which gives an infantile mortality rate of 172.1 per thousand births. The rate for last year was 183.5 per thousand births. The infantile mortality for the whole of England and Wales for this year was 128 per thousand births, which is the lowest ever recorded.

**Various Causes
of Infantile
Deaths.**

The various causes of infantile deaths were :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	24
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	13
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	3
Want of Breast Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
Atrophy Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	28
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tubercular Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Syphilitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	16
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	8
Suffocation (overlying) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	3

Total 126

**Various Causes
of Death.**

The various causes of death at all ages are as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	32
Enteritis (not Epidemic)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	28
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	11
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	44
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	22
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	12
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inanition, Debility, Feeble Vitality, Convulsions, Want of Breast Milk, & Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	45
Disease and Accidents in Partruition	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apoplexy, Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	7
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	3
Burns	...	...	...	...	...	3
Senile Decay	...	...	...	...	...	14
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes...	...	...	...	...	...	21

Total 323

It will be seen from the above list that 48 deaths were caused by the various Zymotic Diseases, viz. :—

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	6
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3
	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	3
	Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	2
	Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	32
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
						Total 48

This gives a Zymotic death rate of 2.55 per thousand of the estimated population. In 1904 the Zymotic Death rate was 3.79 per thousand. The Zymotic Death rate for the whole of England and Wales for the present year was 1.52 per thousand.

Zymotic Diseases.	During the year 103 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz. :—					
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	87 cases
	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	6 „
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	7 „
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3 „
						Total 103 cases

These numbers are less than last year, when 139 cases were notified, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	79 cases
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	37 „
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1 „
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	1 „
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	6 „
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	8 „
Membraneous Croup	...	...	...	...	1 „
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	6 „
					Total 139 cases

From the above lists it will be seen that

87 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred against 79 last year
6 „ Enteric Fever „ „ 37 „
7 „ Diphtheria „ „ 8 „
3 „ Erysipelas „ „ 6 „

No cases of Small-pox, Membraneous Croup, Puerperal Fever, or Continued Fever have occurred during the present year.

Scarlet Fever. Eighty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, against 79 cases last year. These cases were distributed throughout the district as follows:— School Street, Chapel Street, Queen Street, Bridge Street, Castle Street, York Street, Cemetery Lane, Maltkiln Lane, Stanley Street, Pontefract Road, Smawthorne Avenue, Smawthorne Grove, Ambler Street, Hugh Street, Glebe Street, Beancroft Road, Beancroft Street, Temple Street, Nicholson Street, Walden Street, Crowther Street, Middle Oxford Street, Wainwright Street, Wilson Street, Armitage Street, Rhodes Street, West Street, Perseverance Street, Church Street, St. Mary's Place, Aire Street, Florence Street, Sykes Street, Wesley Street, Powell Street, and Blackburn's Yard. Many of these cases were of a mild form, but a few of them were much more serious and resulted in six deaths.

During the months of November and December, the number of cases of Scarlet Fever increased very considerably, and towards the middle of December I traced thirteen children suffering from this disease to the Infants' Department in the Wesleyan School. I at once advised the closing of the whole school till after the Christmas vacation. This advice was followed, and I am pleased to report that the number of cases gradually diminished. I attribute this outbreak to several

children suffering from this most infectious disease in a mild form and mixing amongst other children whilst they were desquamating. In every case I made personal visits to the patient's home and gave directions as to the isolation of the case as far as this can be done at home. Disinfectants were supplied throughout the whole period of isolation, afterwards, the houses cleansed and disinfected by means of the Formalin Spray and Lamp. I trust before another year is past the Joint Hospital will be ready to admit all cases where home accommodation and isolation is impossible. Five of these cases were treated in the New Quarantine Wards at your Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever. Six cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year, against 37 cases last year. They occurred in the following localities :—Wellington Street, School Street, Ings Lane, Temple Street, and Armitage Street.

In each case I made an examination of the drains and out offices. The ash-pits and privy middens were emptied and cleansed and the contents burned. Tubs and disinfectants were supplied throughout the whole period of isolation, afterwards the houses were thoroughly disinfected.

I traced the infection of the cases living at 45 School Street, to a blocked Water Closet, also the case in Ings Lane to a defective drain. The cases in Temple Street and Armitage Street I was unable to trace the source of infection. I regret to say that this disease was the cause of three deaths.

Diphtheria. Seven cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year. These cases were located as follows :—Chapel Street, Driver's Row, Cemetery Lane, West Street, Smauthorne Avenue, and Castle Street.

The case in Chapel Street I traced the source of infection to a blocked drain. The two cases in Cemetery Lane to a defective sink pipe. The case in West Street to direct contact with some person suffering from the disease at Bootle. The case in Smauthorne Avenue to insanitary piggeries in the adjoining back yard. The case in Driver's Row I was unable to trace the cause of infection. This disease I regret to say was the cause of three deaths. Every precaution was taken, disinfectants freely used, and afterwards the houses cleansed and disinfected in the usual way.

Diarrhoea. During July, August, and September, many cases of Epidemic Diarrhoea occurred which principally affected infants and young children. I am still of opinion that many of these cases are caused by injudicious feeding of children, and the imperfect ventilation of the houses, and more especially the bedrooms. This disease was the cause of 32 deaths, twenty-four of these being in infants under one year of age.

Erysipelas. Three cases of Erysipelas were reported during this period. One case which had other complications died. The other two cases were of a mild form.

Whooping Cough. A number of cases of Whooping Cough have occurred during the year. One case died. Much good might be done if this disease was included amongst the list of notifiable infectious diseases.

Bronchitis. Forty-four deaths occurred from Bronchitis during the year, against fifty-two last year. Sixteen of these cases were infants under one year of age.

Burns and Scalds. A large number of Burns and Scalds have occurred during the year, three deaths having resulted therefrom. To my own knowledge, more deaths would have taken place if it had not been for the careful attention that the District Nurses of Castleford give to these cases, and I regret to say that this very deserving fund "The Castleford and District Nurses Fund" is very badly supported, especially by that portion of the people who benefit so largely from them. I again repeat that it would be a source of great protection if Fire-guards were more generally used.

**Sanitary
Work.**

During the year I have made a number of inspections in the district, and have called your attention to the requirements that these inspections have brought to light, and have given Reports on the following:

To the size and accommodation of the houses in Avison's Yard.

" " " " " Smith's Row.

" Ash-pit and Privy-midden accommodation in Smith's Row.

" Sanitary condition of houses in Darling's Yard.

" " " out-buildings of the yards, from No. 17 to 83, Smauthorne Avenue.

To the Sanitary condition of Ash-pit and Privy-midden in Roundhill Road.

Report of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever and closing of the Wesleyan School.

I am pleased to note that the following improvements have been made during the year:

The making of Smauthorne Grove with tar macadam.

" " " Back " "

" " " Roundhill Road " "

The paving of Wilson Street with stone setts. Some 65 back yards have been paved with grouted bricks.

Paving of Victoria Place with bricks.

The Small-pox Hospital has been painted externally and generally renovated.

I wish to call your attention to some of the urgent improvement required in your district:

The bad state of some of the main roads, viz:—The lower end of Carlton Street and Bridge Street, Station Road, and the subway leading into Cambridge Street. These roads are positively dangerous to vehicular traffic and should be immediately attended to.

The following streets and side-streets are in a bad state of repair:—Wainwright Street, North Street, Ambler Street, lower part of Hugh Street, Glebe Street, Regent Street, Crowther Street, Ridgefield Street, Eastfield Lane, Stanley Street, Maltkilm Lane, Cemetery Lane, Charles Street, lower part of Back Wesley Street leading into Aire Street.

The insanitary condition of Avison's Yard, Wade's Yard, Wainwright's Yard and Back Welbeck Street.

More improved treatment of Sewage.

Providing a Public Slaughter House.

Some more ready means of disposing of Night-soil.

From the Sanitary Inspector's Report for the past year, it will be seen that a lot of work has been done. He has made 8,170 inspections.

I am pleased to say we have had less complaints in the Scavenging Department than usual. Some 7,127 Ash-pits have been emptied during the year. There are more dust-bins being used in the district than formerly, and these are empied regularly twice a week. The time is fast approaching when you will have to provide some form of destructor for the surplus night-soil and rubbish which is produced in the district.

Water. There has been a good and regular supply of water throughout the whole year, which has been of good quality.

Slaughter Houses. The Slaughter Houses have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory. I still hold that a Public Slaughter House should be provided for the whole district, and would be within the grasp of the Sanitary authority, and a benefit to the neighbourhood.

Milk Shops and Cowsheds. These places have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

Lodging Houses. I have inspected the Lodging Houses periodically and have had no cause to complain. Any suggestions I have made have always been followed.

Isolation Hospital and Quarantine. These buildings are in order, and ready for use at any time when required.

Inspection of Market. The Market is inspected weekly both by myself and the Sanitary Inspector. Many complaints have been made by Butchers about Meat being brought in the Castleford Market and offered for sale, but I have had no reason to condemn any of this as being unfit for human food.

The Factory and Workshops Act of 1901. There are at the present time 46 Workshops in the Castleford District. Each of these places have been inspected twice during the year, making a total of 92 inspections. The whole of the Sanitary arrangements connected with these Workshops are in good condition and sufficient accommodation is provided for the use of the workers in these shops. We have no complaints to make as to the cleanliness of the same.

Under the Food and Drug Act. Three samples of Milk have been taken and submitted to the Analyst and reports received on the same, which were all satisfactory. No prosecutions under this Act have been made.

I append tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 with this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

WILLIAM F. CHRISPIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GARFIELD HOUSE,
CASTLEFORD,
March 12th, 1906.

TABLE 1.

District : Castleford (Urban) Vital Statistics of whole district during 1905 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all ages.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths.	
		Number	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number	Rate.		Number	Rate.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	11.	12.	13.
1895	16,032	635	39.6	121	191	282	17.6			
1896	16,512	560	33.9	91	162	235	14.2			
1897	17,006	667	39.2	122	183	283	16.7			
1898	17,515	600	34.3	140	233	319	18.4			
1899	18,040	631	35.0	120	190	275	15.3			
1900	18,502	663	35.8	132	199	314	16.9			
1901	17,485	715	40.4	139	194	328	18.5			
1902	17,883	854	47.8	131	153	353	19.7	2	355	19.8
1903	18,116	747	41.2	137	183	293	16.1	1	294	16.18
1904	18,440	681	36.9	125	183.5	332	18.0	6	338	18.3
Average for years 1895-1904		17,553	38.4	125	187.1	301	17.1			
1905	18,771	732	38.99	126	172.1	318	16.9	5	323	17.2

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered with water)—564.

Total Population at all ages	...	17,386	{ At census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	...	3,343	
Average number of persons per house		5.2	

TABLE 2.

District: Castleford (Urban).

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year. a.	Births Registered. b.	Deaths at all ages. c.	Deaths under one year. d.
1895	16,032	635	282	121
1896	16,512	560	235	91
1897	17,006	667	283	122
1898	17,515	600	319	140
1899	18,040	631	275	120
1900	18,502	663	314	132
1901	17,485	715	328	139
1902	17,883	855	355	131
1903	18,116	747	293	137
1904	18,440	681	332	125
Average for Years 1895 to 1904.	17,553	675	301	125
1905	18,771	732	318	126

TABLE 3.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1905.

District: Castleford (Urban).

Diseases.	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5 Years.	5 to 15 Years.	15 to 25 Years.	25 to 65 Years.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ...	87	4	31	46	5	1	5
Enteric Fever ...	6			1	2	3	
Diphtheria ...	7		3	4			
Erysipelas ...	3					3	
Total.	103	4	34	51	7	7	5

TABLE 4.

Cause of and ages at death during the year 1905.

Castleford Urban District.

Causes of Death. 1.		Deaths in or belonging to the whole district at subjoined ages.						
		All ages. 2.	Under 1 year. 3.	1 year and under 5. 4.	5 years and under 15. 5.	15 years and under 25. 6.	25 years and under 65. 7.	65 years and upwards. 8.
Scarlet Fever	...	6	1	3	2			
Whooping Cough	...	1	1					
Diphthera	...	3			3			
Enteric Fever	...	3				1	2	
Epidemic Influenza	...	2					1	1
Diarrhœa	...	32	24	8				
Phthisis	...	28	1		3	8	15	1
Other Tubercular Diseases		20	12	6	2			
Cancer, Malignant Disease		11	-				7	4
Bronchitis	...	44	16	7			13	8
Pneumonia	...	22	8	12	1	1		
Pleurisy	...	1					1	
Premature Births	...	12	12					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	1					1	
Heart Disease	...	21					12	9
Enteritis	...	2	1					1
Erysipelas	...	1					1	
Other Septic Diseases	...	6	2	1	1	2		
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	2					2	
Nephritis	...	7	1	1			5	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	7					2	5
Senile Decay	...	14						14
Accidents	...	6	1	3			2	
Suicides	...	1					1	
All other causes	...	70	46	7	1	4	9	3
All causes	...	323	126	48	13	16	74	46

